

December 30, 2005

Shop With a Cop Spreads Christmas Cheer

The Police Department's 6th annual "Shop with a Cop" holiday shopping spree on Tuesday, December 20, was a tremendous success.



Several officials from Sprint helped kick off this year's event by visiting with the children at the Police Department and distributing toys that local employees collected during their toy drive.

Twenty-eight area children and their police officer "partners" then traveled by school bus the short distance to Wal Mart, where each child was given \$175 to spend. The only item they were required to buy during the shopping spree was a winter coat. But once the coat was purchased, the children were allowed to spend the rest of their money on anything else they wanted.

Following the shopping spree, the children and their partners returned to the police department for a pizza party.

Shop with a Cop was created to help less fortunate children in the Wake Forest area experience a joyous Christmas. We are pleased to report that since its inception in 1999, Shop with a Cop has helped well over 100 local children.



Plans Underway for 2006 Arbor Day

Arbor Day Poster Contest

Open to
Wake Forest
residents between
the ages of
5 and 12.

For more information,
call 554-6143.

Entry deadline is February 6

A photograph of a poster for the Arbor Day contest. The poster features a picture of a forest path and the text "Trees are Terrific... in All Shapes and Sizes".

The Wake Forest Tree Board will sponsor its 28th annual Arbor Day celebration on Thursday, March 16, 2006, at 10:00 a.m. The event will take place at the Wake Forest Community House, located at 133 West Owen Avenue. This year's Arbor Day theme is "*Trees are Terrific...in All Shapes and Sizes!*"

The "Art-Arbor Poster Contest" is again expected be one of the highlights of Arbor Day. Open to all Wake Forest residents between the ages of 5 and 12, the poster contest will be judged by Tree Board members according to artwork, creativity

and depiction of the theme. For complete contest guidelines and rules, click [HERE](#).

U.S. Savings Bonds in the amount of \$50 will be awarded to the poster contest winners in three categories: 1) Best Picture; 2) Most Creative; and, 3) Honorable Mention. As a special incentive, the poster selected for “Best Picture” will be used as the illustration for the 2006 Arbor Day T-Shirt.

Although National Arbor Day is celebrated on the last Friday in April, individual state commemorations are scheduled on dates better suited to each state’s own tree-planting season. North Carolina celebrates Arbor Day on the first Friday following March 15th.

Tree Maintenance Underway Around Town



You may have seen them in various locations throughout our town, but workers from Bartlett Tree Experts are performing maintenance work on approximately 300 trees within the town’s right of way. The work began last week and is scheduled to continue until the end of January.

In case you were wondering about the significance of the blue or orange dots - they are used to designate which trees are scheduled for maintenance. The dots indicate the priority of work, which is based on the size of tree limbs in need of pruning.

Trees marked with orange dots at the base of the trunk indicate “Priority 1” maintenance. Priority 1 maintenance trees require pruning to remove broken, hanging, dead or otherwise potentially dangerous limbs greater than four inches in diameter which are in danger of failing or trees with significant numbers of dead branches that require removal.



Trees bearing blue dots at the base of trunk denote “Priority 2” maintenance. Priority 2 maintenance trees require pruning to remove broken, hanging, dead or otherwise potentially dangerous limbs greater than two inches, but less than four inches in diameter which are in danger of failing or trees with significant number of dead branches that require removal.

Mistletoe, a parasitic plant, will be removed from both Priority 1 and Priority 2 trees.

We are pleased that the work being done by Bartlett is funded partially through the NC Division of Forest Resource’s Urban & Community Forestry Grant Program.

Town Hall Closed for New Year's

Town Hall and other administrative offices will be closed Monday, January 2, in observance of New Year's. Town offices will re-open Tuesday, January 3, at 8:00 a.m. Police services and trash and recycling services will not be interrupted.

On behalf of everyone at the Town of Wake Forest, Happy New Year!!!

December 16, 2005

Shop with a Cop set for Tuesday

Our Police Department's 6th annual "Shop with a Cop" holiday shopping spree is scheduled for Tuesday.

Twenty-seven area children and their police officer "partners" are lined up to visit the Wake Forest Wal Mart, where each child will be given \$175 to spend. The only item the children are required to buy is a winter coat, but once a coat is purchased the remaining funds may be spent on anything the child desires.

Following the shopping spree, the children and their partners will return to the Police Department for a pizza party. This year, we are pleased to be joined by officials from Sprint who will be on hand to distribute toys their employees collected during a recent toy drive.

Shop with a Cop was created to help less fortunate children in the Wake Forest area experience a joyous Christmas. Since its inception in 1999, Shop with a Cop has helped well over 100 local kids.

The Wake Forest Police Department raises money for the program by sponsoring several fundraisers each year, including a concession stand at Hoops for Wake Forest, a raffle sale at the annual Fourth of July celebration, and a gospel singing event at Friendship Chapel Church. The police department also received numerous personal donations from area citizens during 2005.

Winter Energy Conservation Ideas

Winter weather is here. Over the past few days high temperatures have seldom reached 50 degrees, while lows are plummeting into the 20s. As temperatures decrease, we recognize that most of our residents' electric bills will tend to increase. That's why we are always recommending ways you can conserve fuel and reduce your energy bills.



Here are a few general suggestions:

- In the winter, turn your thermostats down to 68 degrees or below. Reduce the setting to 55 degrees before going to sleep or when leaving for the day. (For each 1 degree you turn down the thermostat in the winter, you'll save up to 5% on your heating costs.)
- Turn off non-essential lights and appliances. The electricity generated by fossil fuels for a single home puts more carbon dioxide into the air than two average cars!
- Avoid running large appliances such as washers, dryers, and electric ovens during peak energy demand hours from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Close shades and blinds at night to reduce the amount of heat lost through windows. This also applies during the day for warm climates.

Limit Use of Space Heaters



A 1500-watt space heater operated 8 hours/day will cost nearly **\$40/month.**

That's an **EXPENSIVE** way to heat your home!

WINTER ENERGY SAVINGS TIP

Heating and Cooling Tips

- Set your thermostat as low as is comfortable in the winter and as high as is comfortable in the summer.
- Clean or replace filters on furnaces once a month or as needed.
- Clean warm-air registers, baseboard heaters, and radiators as needed; make sure they're not blocked by furniture, carpeting, or drapes.
- Bleed trapped air from hot-water radiators once or twice a season; if in doubt about how to perform this task, call a professional.
- Place heat-resistant radiator reflectors between exterior walls and the radiators.
- Use kitchen, bath, and other ventilating fans wisely; in just 1 hour, these fans can pull out a houseful of warmed or cooled air. Turn fans off as soon as they have done the job.
- During the heating season, keep the draperies and shades on your south-facing windows open during the day to allow sunlight to enter your home and closed at night to reduce the chill you may feel from cold windows. During the cooling season, keep the window coverings closed during the day to prevent solar gain.
- During the heating season, close an unoccupied room that is isolated from the rest of the house, and turn down the thermostat or turn off the heating for that room or zone. However, do not turn the heating off if it adversely affects the rest of your system. For example, if you heat your house with a heat pump, do not close the vents-closing the vents could harm the heat pump.
- Select energy-efficient equipment when you buy new heating and cooling equipment. Your contractor should be able to give you energy fact sheets for different types, models, and designs to help you compare energy usage. Look for high Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency (AFUE) ratings and the Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER). The national minimums are 78% AFUE and 10 SEER.

- Look for the ENERGY STAR® labels. ENERGY STAR® is a program of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) designed to help consumers identify energy-efficient appliances and products.

Heat Pump Tips

- Do not set back the heat pump's thermostat manually IF it causes the electric resistance heating to come on. This type of heating, which is often used as a backup to the heat pump, is more expensive.
- Clean or change filters once a month or as needed, and maintain the system according to manufacturer's instructions.

Fireplace Tips

- If you never use your fireplace, plug and seal the chimney flue.
- Keep your fireplace damper closed unless a fire is going. Keeping the damper open is like keeping a 48-inch window wide open during the winter; it allows warm air to go right up the chimney.
- When you use the fireplace, reduce heat loss by opening dampers in the bottom of the firebox (if provided) or open the nearest window slightly-approximately 1 inch-and close doors leading into the room. Lower the thermostat setting to between 50 and 55 degrees F.
- Install tempered glass doors and a heat-air exchange system that blows warmed air back into the room.
- Check the seal on the flue damper and make it as snug as possible.
- Add caulking around the fireplace hearth.
- Use grates made of C-shaped metal tubes to draw cool room air into the fireplace and circulate warm air back into the house.

SAFETY TIP



Keep the fireplace flue open for adequate ventilation and until the embers are completely burned out.

www.wakeforestfire.com

Weatherization Tips

- First, test your home for air tightness. On a windy day, hold a lit incense stick next to your windows, doors, electrical boxes, plumbing fixtures, electrical outlets, ceiling fixtures, attic hatches, and other locations where there is a possible air path to the outside. If the smoke stream travels horizontally, you have located an air leak that may need caulking, sealing, or weatherstripping.
- Caulk and weatherstrip doors and windows that leak air.
- Caulk and seal air leaks where plumbing, ducting, or electrical wiring penetrates through exterior walls, floors, ceilings, and soffits over cabinets.
- Install rubber gaskets behind outlet and switch plates on exterior walls.

- Look for dirty spots in your insulation, which often indicate holes where air leaks into and out of your house. You can seal the holes by stapling sheets of plastic over the holes and caulking the edges of the plastic.
- Install storm windows over single-pane windows or replace them with double-pane windows. Storm windows as much as double the R-value of single-pane windows and they can help reduce drafts, water condensation, and frost formation. As a less costly and less permanent alternative, you can use a heavy-duty, clear plastic sheet on a frame or tape clear plastic film to the inside of your window frames during the cold winter months. Remember, the plastic must be sealed tightly to the frame to help reduce infiltration. When the fireplace is not in use, keep the flue damper tightly closed. A chimney is designed specifically for smoke to escape, so until you close it, warm air escapes-24 hours a day!

Source: Earth 911

Planned Power Outage Scheduled for January 5

A planned electric outage has been scheduled for Thursday, January 5 at 2:00 a.m. We anticipate the outage lasting approximately 10 minutes while Progress Energy performs routine maintenance on the substation transformer that serves the town. We apologize for any inconvenience, but this kind of maintenance work is necessary to ensure reliable electricity to our customers.

Town Hall Closed December 23 and 26

The Wake Forest Town Hall and other administrative offices will be closed Friday, December 23, and Monday, December 26, in observance of Christmas. Town offices will re-open Tuesday, December 27 at 8:00 a.m. Police services and trash and recycling services will not be interrupted.

December 9, 2005

Town Receives Donations from Wal Mart

Christmas arrived early for the [Town of Wake Forest](#) yesterday as Wal Mart awarded the town three grants totaling over \$5,250.

In November, members of our [Police Department](#) and staff involved with our [H.O.P.E.](#) Program applied to receive "Neighborhood Grants" from Wal Mart. Last week, after being informed that

their grant applications were approved, they were invited to attend a check presentation ceremony in Wal Mart's Customer Service area.



Altogether, Wal Mart handed out over 12 checks yesterday to various area groups, including The Wake Forest Chamber of Commerce, The Boys and Girls Club, and Cedar Creek Middle School, just to name a few.

Our Police Department was especially honored to be the recipient of two of those checks – one for \$1,000 and the other for \$3,250.

The \$1,000 gift will be used for the Police Department's "Shop with a Cop" program. Each year, the Police Department raises money to provide a joyful Christmas to needy children in our community. After being paired with a local child, members of the police department escort the child to Wal-Mart where he/she is given \$150 to spend. The children must purchase a winter coat first, but then they are allowed to spend the remaining amount on anything they wish. After the shopping spree, the children are then brought back to the police department for an enjoyable pizza party.



Lt. Brian Mote, Detective Kim Warren, and Police Chief Greg Harrington accepted the check on behalf of the Wake Forest Police Department.

The check for \$3,250 will be used on various crime prevention strategies. One item – in particular - that Chief Harrington hopes to purchase with a portion of this funding is a McGruff Suit which can be used in local schools and at special events. Chief Harrington, Sgt. Richard May and Lt. Trent Coleman are shown accepting the check from the Wal Mart Manager.

It is worth noting that Wal Mart has donated money to the Shop with a Cop program since it was started in 1999.



Finally, our [H.O.P.E.](#) Program also received a check for \$1,000. If you're a regular visitor to this page, then you know our H.O.P.E. program is designed to help financially disadvantaged electric customers reconcile their utility bills. Customer Service Supervisor Drew Brown was on hand to accept the check from Wal Mart.

Roundabout Construction – Truck Detour

We recently announced plans to construct a "roundabout" at the junction of NC 98-Business and US 1-A in the vicinity of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Most people aren't familiar with what a roundabout is exactly, but it's a form of intersection design and control which accommodates traffic flow in one direction around a central island, operates with yield control at the entry points, and gives priority to vehicles within the roundabout. Roundabouts have been found to be safer than traffic signals and able to handle large volumes of traffic more successfully.

A truck apron will be built around the inner ring of the roundabout during the construction of the central island. All vehicular traffic must be kept off the newly-constructed truck apron throughout this phase of construction, which is expected to be for a period between 10 days and two weeks. Since trucks will be unable to negotiate the roundabout without compromising the new truck apron, all trucks must be detoured around the junction and on to NCDOT-maintained roads.

The timetable for roundabout construction will be determined in the next several days, but Town of Wake Forest officials have established the following truck detour route:

Trucks northbound on US 1-A

- turn right at NC 98 Bypass and proceed to NC 98 Business;
- turn left at NC 98-Business and proceed to the downtown area;
- continue to the underpass bridge and turn right after the rail bridge.

Trucks westbound on NC 98-Business

- turn right after the rail bridge;
- turn left onto Wingate Street;
- turn right onto NC 98 West towards Durham.

Trucks southbound on US 1-A

- turn left onto North Avenue;
- turn left onto NC 98-Business East all the way to NC 98 Bypass;
- turn right onto NC 98 Bypass and continue to US 1A;
- turn left onto US 1-A South.

Trucks eastbound on NC 98-Business

- turn left onto Wingate Street;

- turn right onto North Avenue;
- turn left onto NC 98-Business East.

Trucks southbound on US 1-A traveling to NC 98-Business West

- turn right onto North Avenue;
- turn left onto Wingate Street;
- turn right onto NC 98-Business West.

Trucks westbound on NC 98-Business traveling to US 1-A North

- turn left onto Wingate Street;
- turn right onto North Avenue;
- turn left onto US1-A North.

Trucks northbound on US 1-A traveling to NC 98-Business West

- turn right at NC 98 Bypass and proceed to NC 98 Business;
- Turn left at NC 98-Business and proceed to the downtown area;
- turn right after the rail bridge;
- turn left onto Wingate Street;
- turn right onto NC 98-Business.

Trucks eastbound on NC 98- Business traveling to US 1-A South

- turn left onto Wingate Street;
- turn right onto North Avenue;
- turn left onto NC 98-Business East and continue to NC 98 bypass
- turn right onto NC 98 Bypass traveling back to US 1-A;
- turn left onto US 1-A South.

More to See on Channel 10

For those of you who tune in regularly to Channel 10 for information on happenings around Town, and for those of you who have yet to check it out, there are even more reasons for you to give it a try. This week, we partnered with the Town of Wake Forest Fire Department to offer segments on Home Safety, as well as Christmas Safety. In addition, we have posted information about upcoming programs being offered by our Parks and Recreation Department.

As Bill Crabtree, our Communications Specialist says, we don't realistically expect you to sit down in front of the TV and eat a bowl of popcorn while watching Channel 10 - although that may not be such a bad idea. But if you want up to the minute information on what's happening around town, as well as important news you can use, its worth your time to check it out from time to time. You might be surprised at what you'll find!

Citizen Surveys

Here's a friendly reminder – if you haven't taken a moment to complete the surveys I noted last week - designed to help us gauge the effectiveness of town operations, its not too late.

Several months ago we implemented “Results Based Management.” As I noted in this space last week, it has been said that if you do not know where you are going, any road will take you there. Results-based management (RBM) is about just the opposite. It is about choosing a destination first; deciding on the route and intermediary stops required to get there; continually checking your progress; and making course adjustments as needed.

We are employing RBM to help us focus on our work, plan strategically and demonstrate the affect we are having on the community. Your feedback is an extremely important part of this process.

By clicking on the links below you will access surveys designed to allow you to offer feedback on the town's various departments. Your answers will be kept confidential, so feel free to offer honest responses. We ask that you please skip any questions which do not pertain to you or for which you do not have sufficient information to respond.

[Inspections](#)

[Parks & Recreation](#)

[Finance](#)

[Public Buildings](#)

[Planning](#)

[Engineering](#)

[Cemetery](#)

We'll be sure to let you know in the coming months what the surveys reveal.

December 2, 2005

Check Out E-News

If you are a regular visitor to this page, you likely noticed that I used the Thanksgiving holiday to take a break from contributing in this space as I normally do each Friday. Mindful that many of you want to be kept informed about what's happening in Wake Forest, however, we did take the

opportunity to fill the information void by unveiling a new communications tool we believe will enhance our ongoing efforts to share with you useful updates about goings on around town.

Last Wednesday afternoon (November 23) - after collecting more than 300 email addresses over several months from local citizens and other folks who indicated they wanted to receive monthly reports on Town news, programs, and special events - we sent out our first [E-Newsletter](#).

I am pleased to report that early returns suggest our “ENews” was very well received.

E-News is the latest in a series of strategies we’ve undertaken as a means of improving communication with local residents. Without question, Wake Forest has a lot to offer - which is one of the main reasons why so many people want to live here – but we recognized long ago that it doesn’t matter what we have to offer if our citizens are not aware of whatever it is we have for them. Our new website, a new-look Channel 10 featuring more information about Town programs and events, this Weblog, and now E-News are all new measure we’ve introduced over the last several months as we endeavor to let you know what’s happening around town.

Moving forward, we will continue to pursue additional communications strategies again aimed at keeping you “in the know.” However, if you ever have suggestions about how we can improve, contact Bill Crabtree, our Communications Specialist – he’d love to hear from you.

In the meantime, if you're interested in receiving E-News, visit our [homepage](#) and enter your email address in the space provided - just below the Event Calendar.

Citizen Surveys

You may have noticed on our [home page](#) that we are encouraging our citizens to take a number of surveys designed to help us gauge the effectiveness of town operations.

Several months ago we implemented “Results Based Management” to help us gauge town operations. It has been said that if you do not know where you are going, any road will take you there. Well, results-based management (RBM) is about just the opposite. It is about choosing a destination *first*; deciding on the route and intermediary stops required to get there; continually checking your progress; and making course adjustments as needed.

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Road Construction Update

South Main Street

Contractors began milling South Main Street from the Roundabout to Pine Ridge (just before the NC98 bypass). The project will take several days and residents should follow the temporary no parking signs posted on South Main Street. If cars are not moved off of the street from the hours of 8am to 5pm they will be towed at the owner's expense. Be sure to follow the traffic control signs, flagmen and pilot truck as directed.

Roundabout/US1A Resurfacing

The milling of North Main Street and North/Front/South Avenue is complete, and the manholes and water valves are being raised for the new asphalt overlay. The paving operation will begin Monday, December 7. Continue to watch for flagmen, pilot trucks, and construction signs detouring traffic.

Also, the new traffic island for the roundabout at the intersection of US1A/NC98 (South Avenue) in front of the Seminary will begin within the next few weeks. Be sure to follow the flagmen through the new traffic pattern or use the truck detour signs.

North Allen Sidewalk/Resurfacing

The construction on North Allen Street is progressing well. Contractors are installing drainage pipe, adjusting water services, and continuing to install new curb and gutter/sidewalk. As a reminder, the Town asks that you watch your children and do not let them play in the work zone. The work area is designated by the orange fencing.

Retail Drive Construction Delayed

In case you haven't heard, the NCDOT announced Monday that the recent wet weather has forced the postponement of road construction along [Retail Drive](#). Original plans called for the stretch to be closed for the next several weeks, so work crews could complete the by-pass some time between Christmas and the start of the New Year. Weather events over the weekend, however, caused the contractor to delay the road work. Officials say they expect the bypass to open in May 2006.

Holiday Safety

We recently sent out a press release concerning Holiday Safety tips. If you haven't checked it out, click [here](#). I'd encourage everyone to read them carefully to help ensure a happy holiday season.